

ARBITRATION

Convention signed at Washington May 5, 1908

Senate advice and consent to ratification May 13, 1908

Ratified by Japan July 20, 1908

Ratified by the President of the United States August 19, 1908

Ratifications exchanged at Washington August 24, 1908

Entered into force August 24, 1908

Proclaimed by the President of the United States September 1, 1908

*Extended by agreements of June 28, 1913;¹ August 23, 1918;² and
August 23, 1923³*

Expired August 23, 1928

35 Stat. 2050; Treaty Series 509

The President of the United States of America and His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, taking into consideration the fact that the High Contracting Parties to the Convention for the pacific settlement of international disputes, concluded at The Hague on the 29th July, 1899,⁴ have reserved to themselves, by Article XIX of that Convention, the right of concluding Agreements, with a view to referring to arbitration all questions which they shall consider possible to submit to such treatment, have resolved to conclude an Arbitration Convention between the two countries, and for the purpose have named as their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say:

The President of the United States of America, Elihu Root, Secretary of State of the United States of America; and

His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, Baron Kogoro Takahira, Shosammi, Grand Cordon of the Imperial Order of the Rising Sun, His Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United States of America;

Who, after having communicated to each other their Full Powers, found to be in good and due form, have agreed upon and concluded the following Articles:

¹ TS 591, *post*, p. 423.

² TS 639, *post*, p. 428.

³ TS 683, *post*, p. 439.

⁴ TS 392, *ante*, vol. 1, p. 230.

ARTICLE I

Differences which may arise of a legal nature, or relating to the interpretation of treaties existing between the two Contracting Parties, and which it may not have been possible to settle by diplomacy, shall be referred to the Permanent Court of Arbitration established at The Hague by the Convention of the 29th July, 1899, provided, nevertheless, that they do not affect the vital interests, the independence, or the honor of the two Contracting States, and do not concern the interests of third parties.

ARTICLE II

In each individual case the High Contracting Parties, before appealing to the Permanent Court of Arbitration shall conclude a special Agreement defining clearly the matter in dispute, the scope of the powers of the Arbitrators, and the periods to be fixed for the formation of the Arbitral Tribunal and the several stages of the procedure. It is understood that such special agreements will be made on the part of the United States by the President of the United States by and with the advice and consent of the Senate thereof.

Such agreements shall be binding only when confirmed by the two Governments by an Exchange of Notes.

ARTICLE III

The present Convention shall remain in force for the period of five years from the date of the exchange of the ratifications.

ARTICLE IV

The present Convention shall be ratified by the High Contracting Parties, and the ratifications thereof shall be exchanged at Washington as soon as possible.

In witness whereof, the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Convention, and have thereunto affixed their seals.

Done at the City of Washington, in duplicate, this fifth day of May, one thousand nine hundred and eight, corresponding to the fifth day of the fifth month of the forty-first year of Meiji.

ELIHU ROOT	[SEAL]
K. TAKAHIRA	[SEAL]